changes linked with STD facility during 1990–91 and 1991–92;

(b) the names of the telephone exchanges proposed to be linked with S.T.D. facility during 1992–93 and the number of exchanges out of them provided with this facility till January, 1992; and

(c) the time by which S.T.D. facility is likely to be provided to the rest of the exchanges with locations thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Total No. of Telephones Exchanges linked with STD facility during 1990–91 is 184 and during 1991–92 (from 1.4.91 to 17.3.92) is 213.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Return Letters Offices

4052. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Return Letter Office in Jaipur had been closed and the work was entrusted to various post offices;

(b) if so, the outcome of the experiment; and

(c) the future policy of the Government regarding Return Letter Offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. Part of the work was decentralised to Head Post Offices experimentally from 14.5.1990. The experiment was suspended from 1.8.1990.

(b) The outcome could not be assessed, as the decentralisation was suspended after a short period.

(c) There is no new direction of policy, as of now.

Indira Gandhi Canal Project

4053. SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
DR. A.K. PATEL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of Indira Gandhi canal project in Rajasthan, so far;

(b) how much land of Thar desert is under assured irrigation at present by this canal;

(c) the target of its completion;

(d) the extent of delay in completion of the project from its original target date, causes thereof and the cost escalation due to delay; and

(e) whether the Government propose to provide funds in one full package in order to check the plan expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Indira Gandhi Nahar Project to ultimately benefit 13.88 lakh ha. in the south-western districts of Rajasthan is being executed in two stages. Stage I of the Project has been completed and the main canal of Stage II have been